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25TH
ANNIVERSARY
OHHH!
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THE NEW
MUTANTS
HELLIONS
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MAY
ARTHUR ADAMS
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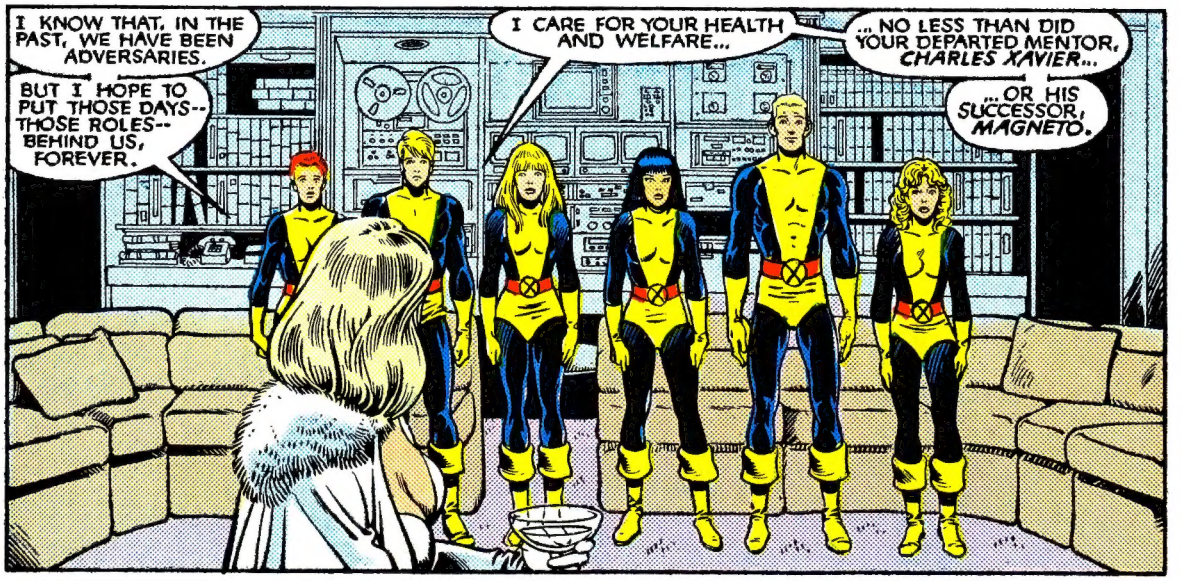
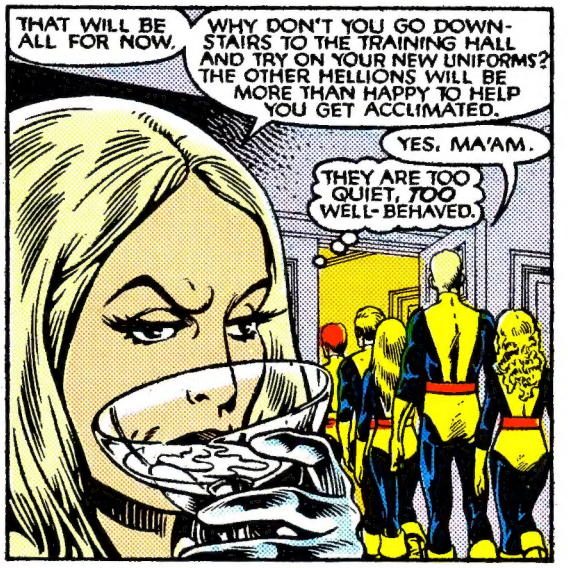
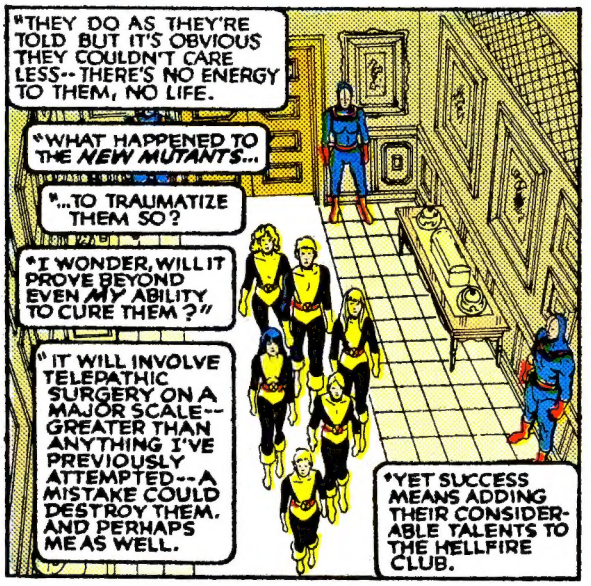
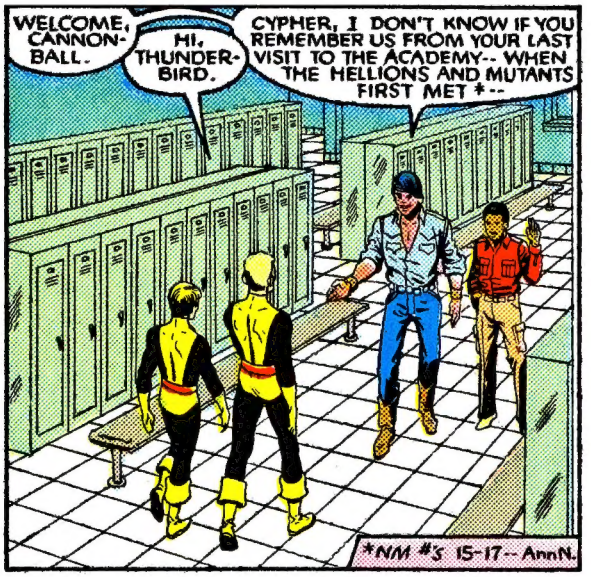

I KNOW THAT. IN THE PAST, WE HAVE BEEN ADVERSARIES.
BUT I HOPE TO PUT THOSE DAYS--THOSE ROLES--BEHIND US, FOREVER.
I CARE FOR YOUR HEALTH AND WELFARE...
... NO LESS THAN DID YOUR DEPARTED MENTOR, CHARLES XAVIER...
...OR HIS SUCCESSOR, MAGNETO.

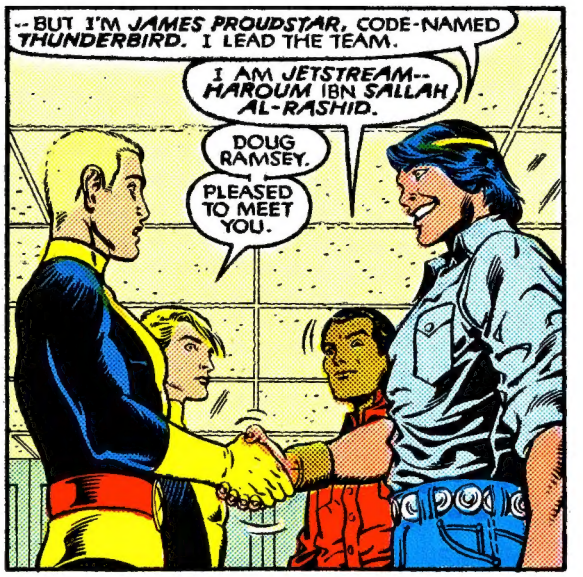
FOR ALL HIS VAUNTED POWER, THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM COULD NOT REMOVE THE SHADOW FROM YOUR SOULS--THOUGH I AM SURE HE TRIED HIS VERY BEST--
--AND SO, SWALLOWING HIS PRIDE, HE TURNED TO THE WHITE QUEEN.
REST ASSURED, YOUNGSTERS, I SHALL ENDEAVOR TO BE WORTHY OF HIS TRUST.

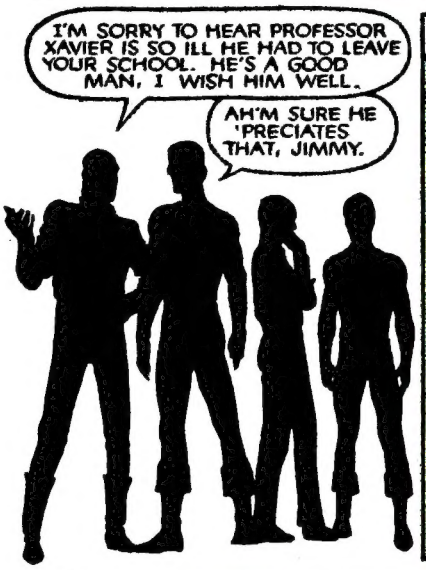

THAT WILL BE ALL FOR NOW.
WHY DON'T YOU GO DOWNSTAIRS TO THE TRAINING HALL AND TRY ON YOUR NEW UNIFORMS? THE OTHER HELLIONS WILL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HELP YOU GET ACCLIMATED.
YES, MA'AM.
THEY ARE TOO QUIET, TOO WELL-BEHAVED.

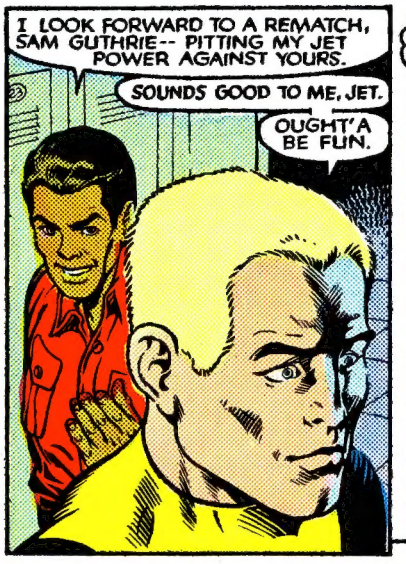

"THEY DO AS THEY'RE TOLD BUT IT'S OBVIOUS THEY COULDN'T CARE LESS--THERE'S NO ENERGY TO THEM, NO LIFE.
"WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NEW MUTANTS...
"...TO TRAUMATIZE THEM SO?
"I WONDER, WILL IT PROVE BEYOND EVEN MY ABILITY TO CURE THEM?"
"IT WILL INVOLVE TELEPATHIC SURGERY ON A MAJOR SCALE--GREATER THAN ANYTHING I'VE PREVIOUSLY ATTEMPTED--A MISTAKE COULD DESTROY THEM. AND PERHAPS ME AS WELL.
"YET SUCCESS MEANS ADDING THEIR CONSIDERABLE TALENTS TO THE HELLFIRE CLUB.

"THE RISK IS GREAT--FOR US ALL--BUT THE BENEFITS MORE THAN OUTWEIGH THEM"
SO, MUTANTS, WE MEET AGAIN!
A LOT SOONER --AND UNDER FAR FRIENDLIER CIRCUMSTANCES--
--THAN I EVER EXPECTED!
MAN

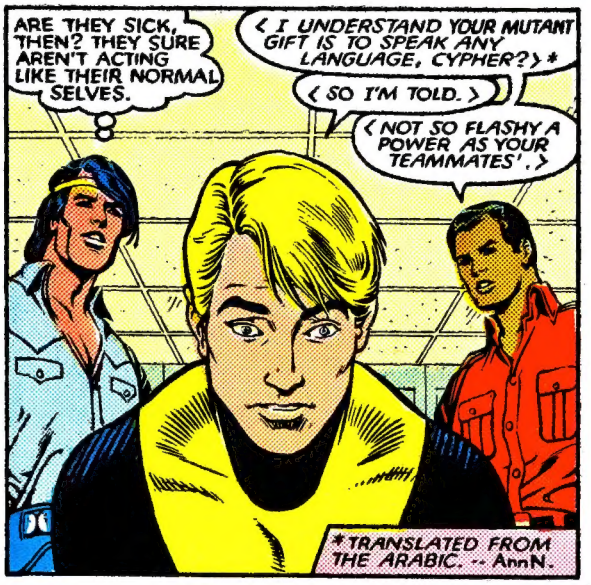

WELCOME, CANNON-BALL.
HI, THUNDER-BIRD.
CYPHER, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU REMEMBER US FROM YOUR LAST VISIT TO THE ACADEMY-- WHEN THE HELLIONS AND MUTANTS FIRST MET *--
*NM #'s 15-17-- AnnN.

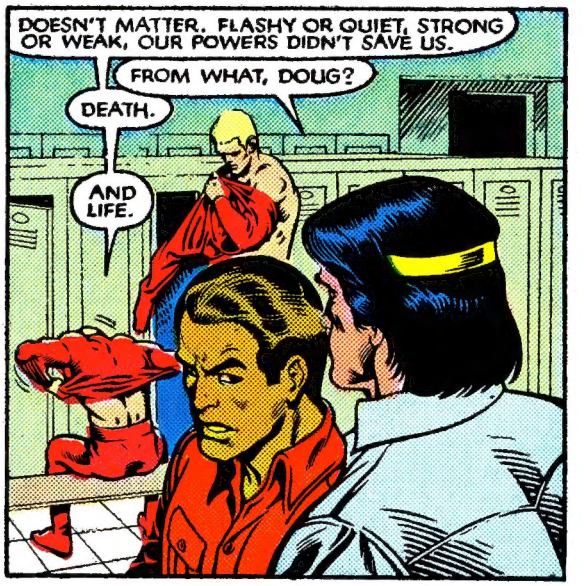

--BUT I'M JAMES PROUDSTAR, CODE-NAMED THUNDERBIRD. I LEAD THE TEAM.
I AM JETSTREAM-- HAROUM IBN SALLAH AL-RASHID.
DOUG RAMSEY.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

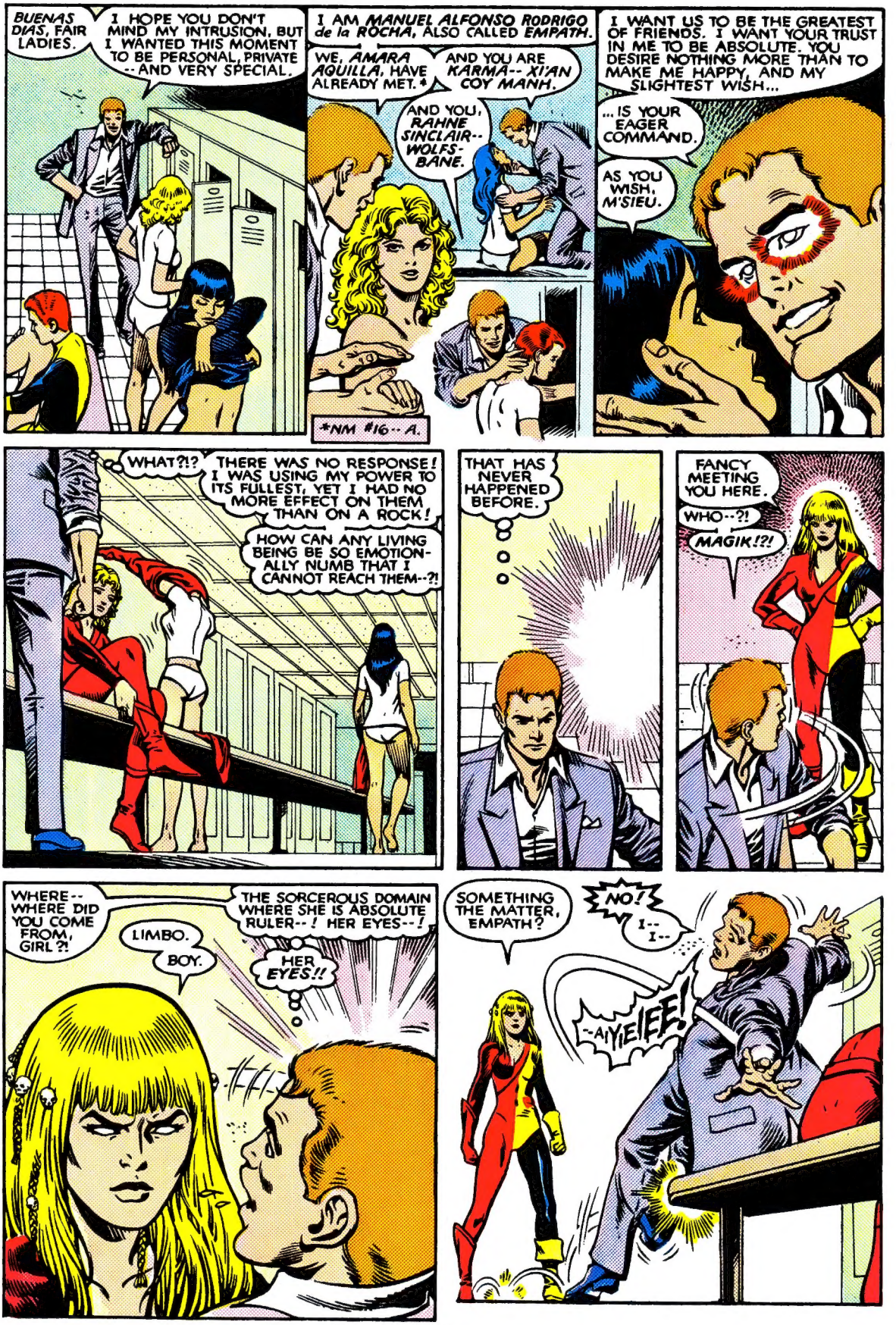

I'M SORRY TO HEAR PROFESSOR XAVIER IS SO ILL HE HAD TO LEAVE YOUR SCHOOL. HE'S A GOOD MAN, I WISH HIM WELL.
AH'M SURE HE 'PRECIATES THAT, JIMMY.

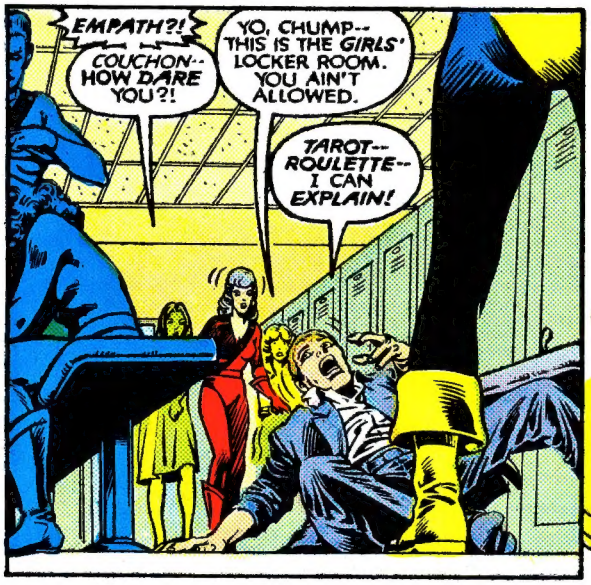

I LOOK FORWARD TO A REMATCH, SAM GUTHRIE-- PITTING MY JET POWER AGAINST YOURS.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, JET.
OUGHT'A BE FUN.

WHAT GIVES?! ARE THESE GUYS DRUGGED-- HAS THE QUEEN PULLED SOME TELEPATHIC ZOMBIE NUMBER ON THEIR HEADS?!
NAH--SHE WOULDN'T BE SO OBVIOUS, OR CLUMSY.


ARE THEY SICK, THEN? THEY SURE AREN'T ACTING LIKE THEIR NORMAL SELVES.
< I UNDERSTAND YOUR MUTANT GIFT IS TO SPEAK ANY LANGUAGE, CYPHER?> *
< SO I'M TOLD. >
< NOT SO FLASHY A POWER AS YOUR TEAMMATES'. >
*TRANSLATED FROM THE ARABIC. -- AnnN.

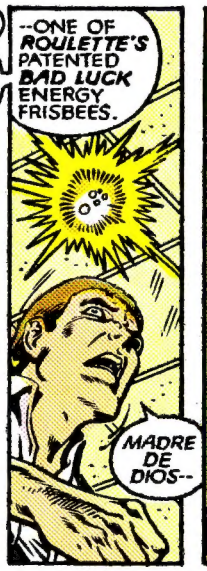

DOESN'T MATTER. FLASHY OR QUIET, STRONG OR WEAK, OUR POWERS DIDN'T SAVE US.
FROM WHAT, DOUG?
DEATH.
AND LIFE.

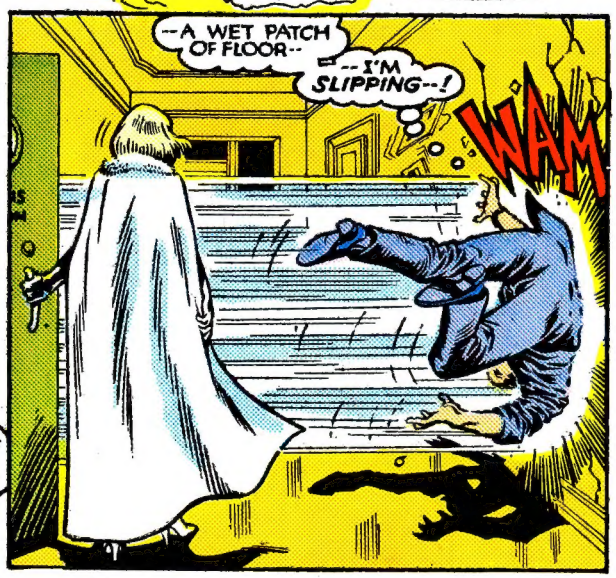

BUENAS DIAS, FAIR LADIES.
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY INTRUSION, BUT I WANTED THIS MOMENT TO BE PERSONAL, PRIVATE --AND VERY SPECIAL.
I AM MANUEL ALFONSO RODRIGO de la ROCHA, ALSO CALLED EMPATH.
WE, AMARA AQUILLA, HAVE ALREADY MET.
AND YOU ARE KARMA-- XI'AN COY MANH.
AND YOU, RAHNE SINCLAIR-- WOLFSBANE.
*NM #16-- A.
I WANT US TO BE THE GREATEST OF FRIENDS. I WANT YOUR TRUST IN ME TO BE ABSOLUTE. YOU DESIRE NOTHING MORE THAN TO MAKE ME HAPPY, AND MY SLIGHTEST WISH...
... IS YOUR EAGER COMMAND.
AS YOU WISH, M'SIEU.
WHAT?!?
THERE WAS NO RESPONSE! I WAS USING MY POWER TO ITS FULLEST, YET I HAD NO MORE EFFECT ON THEM THAN ON A ROCK!
HOW CAN ANY LIVING BEING BE SO EMOTIONALLY NUMB THAT I CANNOT REACH THEM--?!
THAT HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE.
WHO--?!
MAGIK!?!
WHERE-- WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, GIRL?!
LIMBO.
BOY.
THE SORCEROUS DOMAIN WHERE SHE IS ABSOLUTE RULER--! HER EYES--!
HER EYES!!
SOMETHING THE MATTER, EMPATH?
NO!
I--
I--
--AIYIEEE!

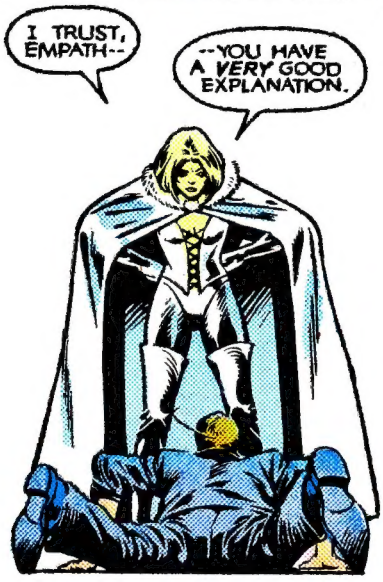

EMPATH?!
COUCHON--HOW DARE YOU?!
YO, CHUMP--THIS IS THE GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM. YOU AIN'T ALLOWED.
TAROT--ROULETTE--I CAN EXPLAIN!

SNEAKY BADBOY PLAYS HURTFUL HEARTGAMES WITH HELLIONS' NEW FRIENDS?!
MAYBE PLAY A GAME WITH CATSEYE, YES?
SEE WHICH IS STRONGER--NASTY HEARTPOWER...

...OR CLAWS?!
GOING SO SOON, MANNY?
HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING TO SPEED YOU ON YOUR WAY:-


--ONE OF ROULETTE'S PATENTED BAD LUCK ENERGY FRISBEES.
MADRE DE DIOS--


--A WET PATCH OF FLOOR--
--I'M SLIPPING--!
WAM

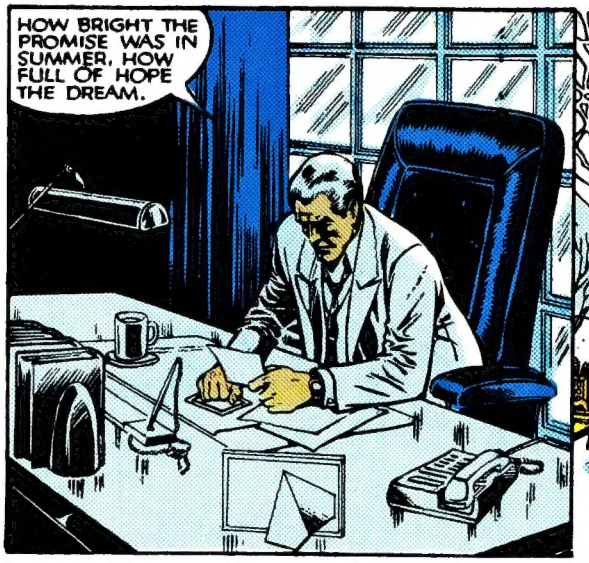

I TRUST, EMPATH--
--YOU HAVE A VERY GOOD EXPLANATION.

LITTLE REDFUR FURPERSON--FRIENDS AT LAST, WE ARE, YES! COME TO STAY, BE HAPPY, WITH CATSEYE!
SO IT WOULD SEEM, SHARON.
BUT MY TAROT DECK SAYS DIFFERENTLY.
AND MY CARDS HAVE NEVER LIED.

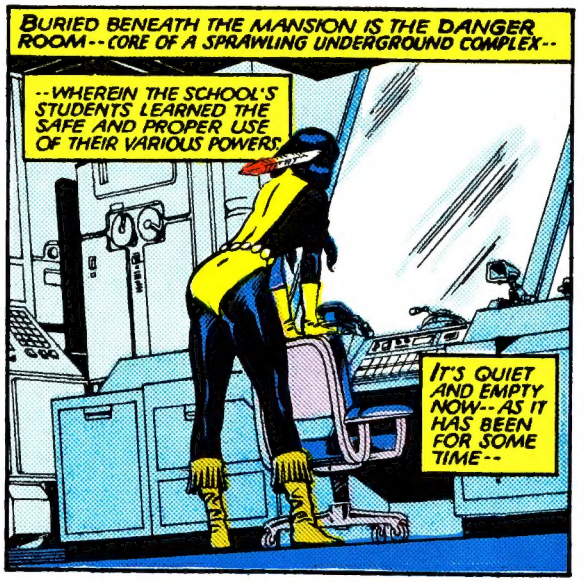
DESPITE TAROT'S UNVOICED MISGIVINGS, THE ADMISSIONS FORMALITIES ARE SOON COMPLETED AND THE ENTIRE TEAM GATHERED IN THE CAVERNOUS TRAINING HALL...
SMILE, STUDENTS--
-- FOR YOUR OFFICIAL CLASS PHOTOGRAPH!
FROM THIS MOMENT ON...
...THE NEW MUTANTS ARE NO MORE.
THERE ARE ONLY-- THE HELLIONS!

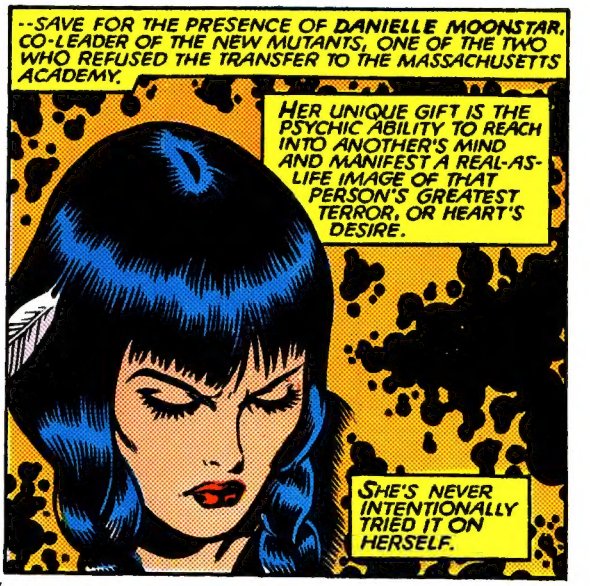
A WEEK LATER, A HUNDRED MILES TO THE SOUTH-- AT WHAT WAS ONCE PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S HOME FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...
WHAT IS.

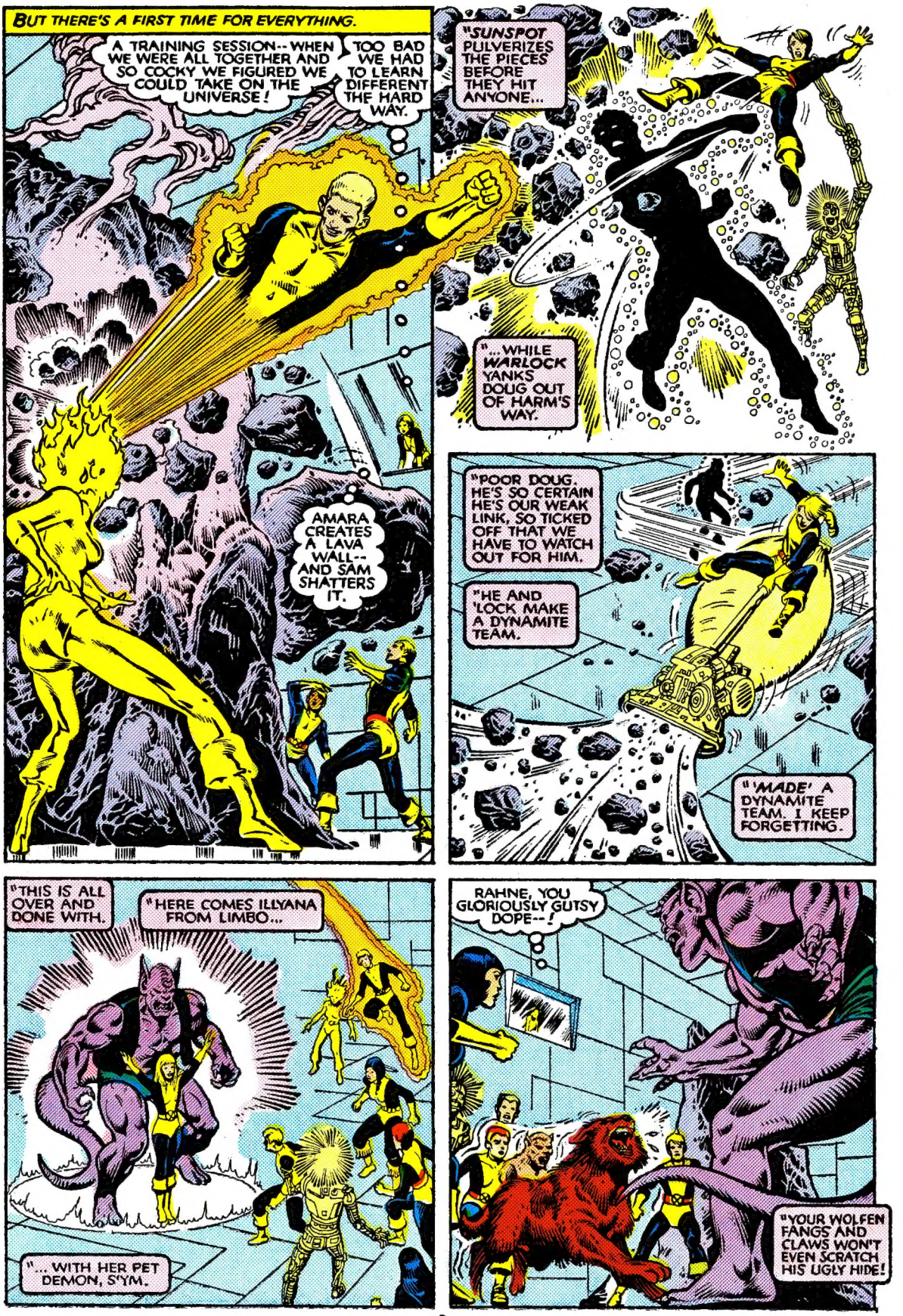
WHAT WAS.


HOW BRIGHT THE PROMISE WAS IN SUMMER, HOW FULL OF HOPE THE DREAM.

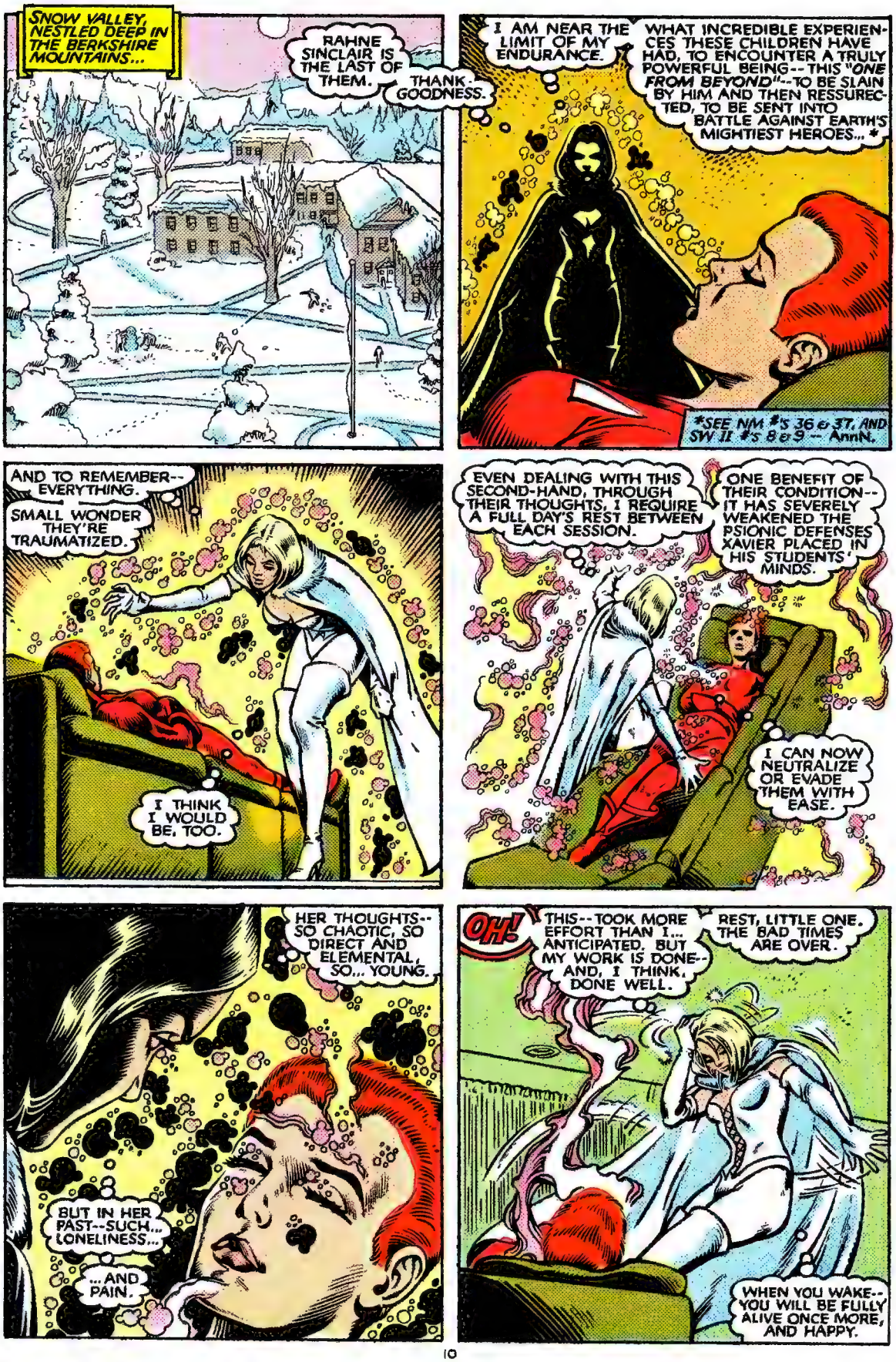
HOW QUICKLY IT TURNED TO ASHES.

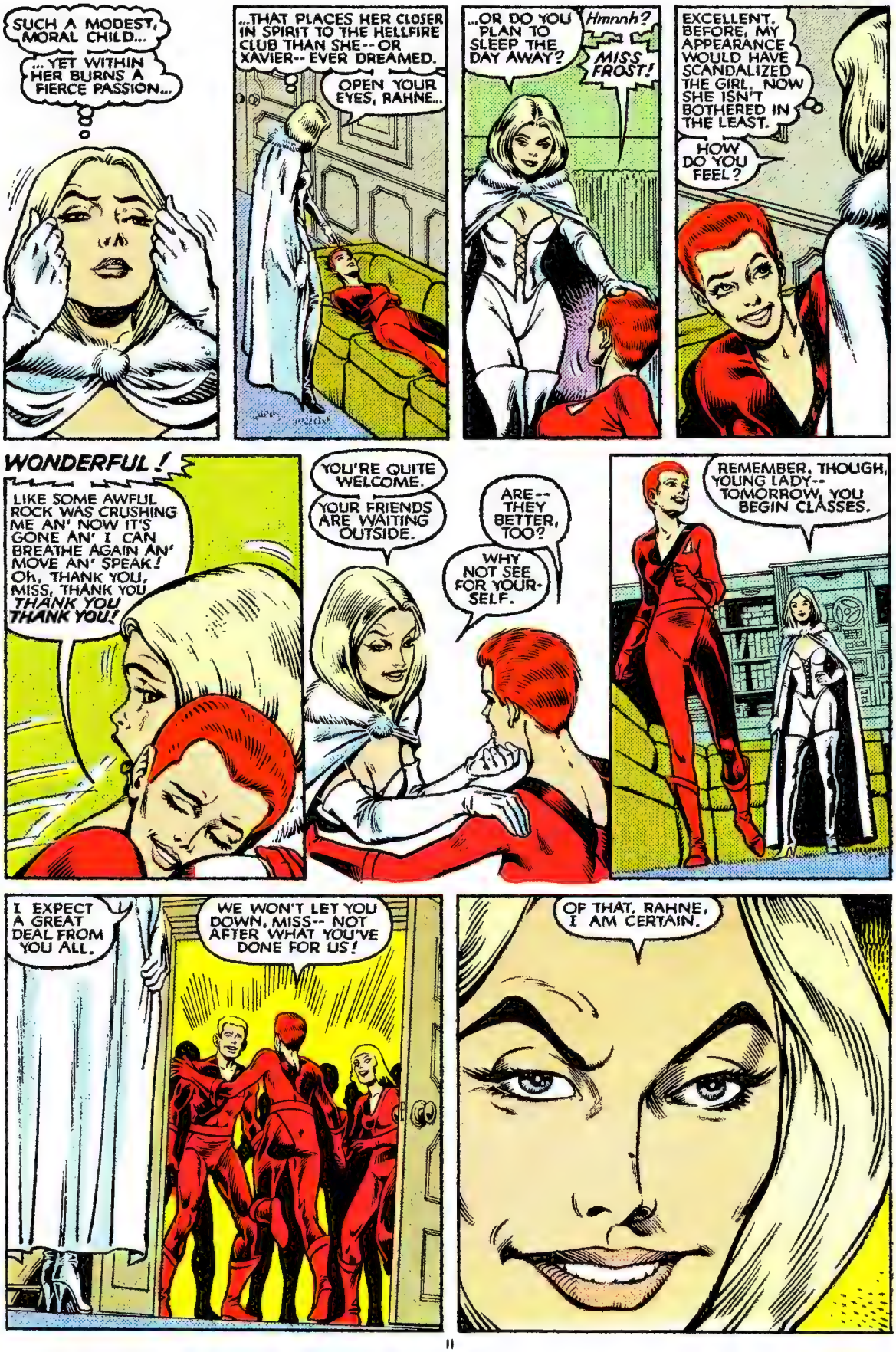

BURIED BENEATH THE MANSION IS THE DANGER ROOM--CORE OF A SPRAWLING UNDERGROUND COMPLEX--
--WHEREIN THE SCHOOL'S STUDENTS LEARNED THE SAFE AND PROPER USE OF THEIR VARIOUS POWERS.
IT'S QUIET AND EMPTY NOW--AS IT HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME--

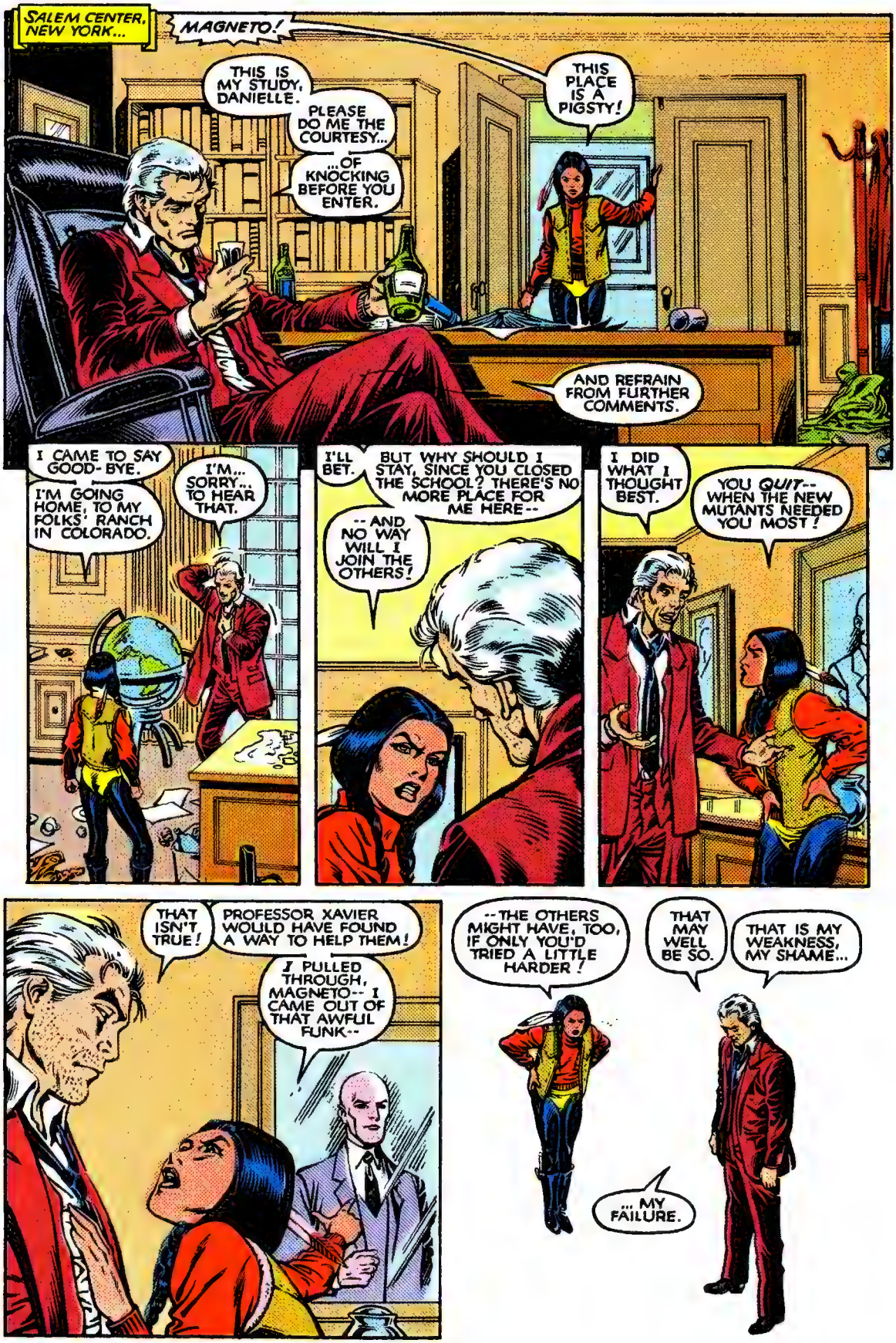

--SAVE FOR THE PRESENCE OF DANIELLE MOONSTAR, CO-LEADER OF THE NEW MUTANTS, ONE OF THE TWO WHO REFUSED THE TRANSFER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY.
HER UNIQUE GIFT IS THE PSYCHIC ABILITY TO REACH INTO ANOTHER'S MIND AND MANIFEST A REAL-AS-LIFE IMAGE OF THAT PERSON'S GREATEST TERROR, OR HEART'S DESIRE.
SHE'S NEVER INTENTIONALLY TRIED IT ON HERSELF.


BUT THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING.
A TRAINING SESSION--WHEN WE WERE ALL TOGETHER AND SO COCKY WE FIGURED WE COULD TAKE ON THE UNIVERSE!
TOO BAD WE HAD TO LEARN DIFFERENT THE HARD WAY.
AMARA CREATES A LAVA WALL--AND SAM SHATTERS IT.
"SUNSPOT PULVERIZES THE PIECES BEFORE THEY HIT ANYONE...
"...WHILE WARLOCK YANKS DOUG OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
"POOR DOUG. HE'S SO CERTAIN HE'S OUR WEAK LINK, SO TICKED OFF THAT WE HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR HIM.
"HE AND 'LOCK MAKE A DYNAMITE TEAM.
"'MADE' A DYNAMITE TEAM. I KEEP FORGETTING.
"THIS IS ALL OVER AND DONE WITH.
"HERE COMES ILLYANA FROM LIMBO...
"... WITH HER PET DEMON, S'YM.
RAHNE, YOU GLORIOUSLY GUTSY DOPE--!
"YOUR WOLFEN FANGS AND CLAWS WON'T EVEN SCRATCH HIS UGLY HIDE!

"THIS IS KARMA'S CHALLENGE. THE CRITTER HAS A MIND--GROSS AND DISGUSTO AS IT IS-- SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO POSSESS IT.
"HE'S FIGHTING. HE'S PLENTY TOUGH...
"... BUT SHAN IS TOUGHER!
"AND BEFORE HE GETS MAD-- AND THINGS GET NASTY-- ILLYANA BIDS HIM FOND FAREWELL AND TELEPORTS HIM BACK WHERE HE BELONGS.
EVEN THINKING ABOUT LIMBO MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL--YET, TO ILLYANA, IT'S MORE HER HOME THAN EARTH.
I WONDER, DOES THAT MAKE MONSTERS LIKE S'YM...
...MORE HER FAMILY?
SO-- HOW'D WE DO, TEACH?
"SATISFACTORY," MAGNETO SAYS, PROMISING A MORE DETAILED CRITIQUE IN CLASS, AFTER WE WASHED UP AND CHANGED.
BUT THE SLIGHT SMILE ON HIS FACE GIVES HIS TRUE FEELINGS AWAY.
WE DID GOOD.
AND HE'S PROUD OF US.
AND SO'S PROFESSOR X, WHEREVER HE IS-- AMONG THE STARS, OR IN HEAVEN.
ONLY-- THIS WAS NEVER THE WAY IT REALLY WAS...
... JUST THE WAY I WISH IT WAS.
THE WAY IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN--
--IF WE'D NEVER MET THE BEYONDER!

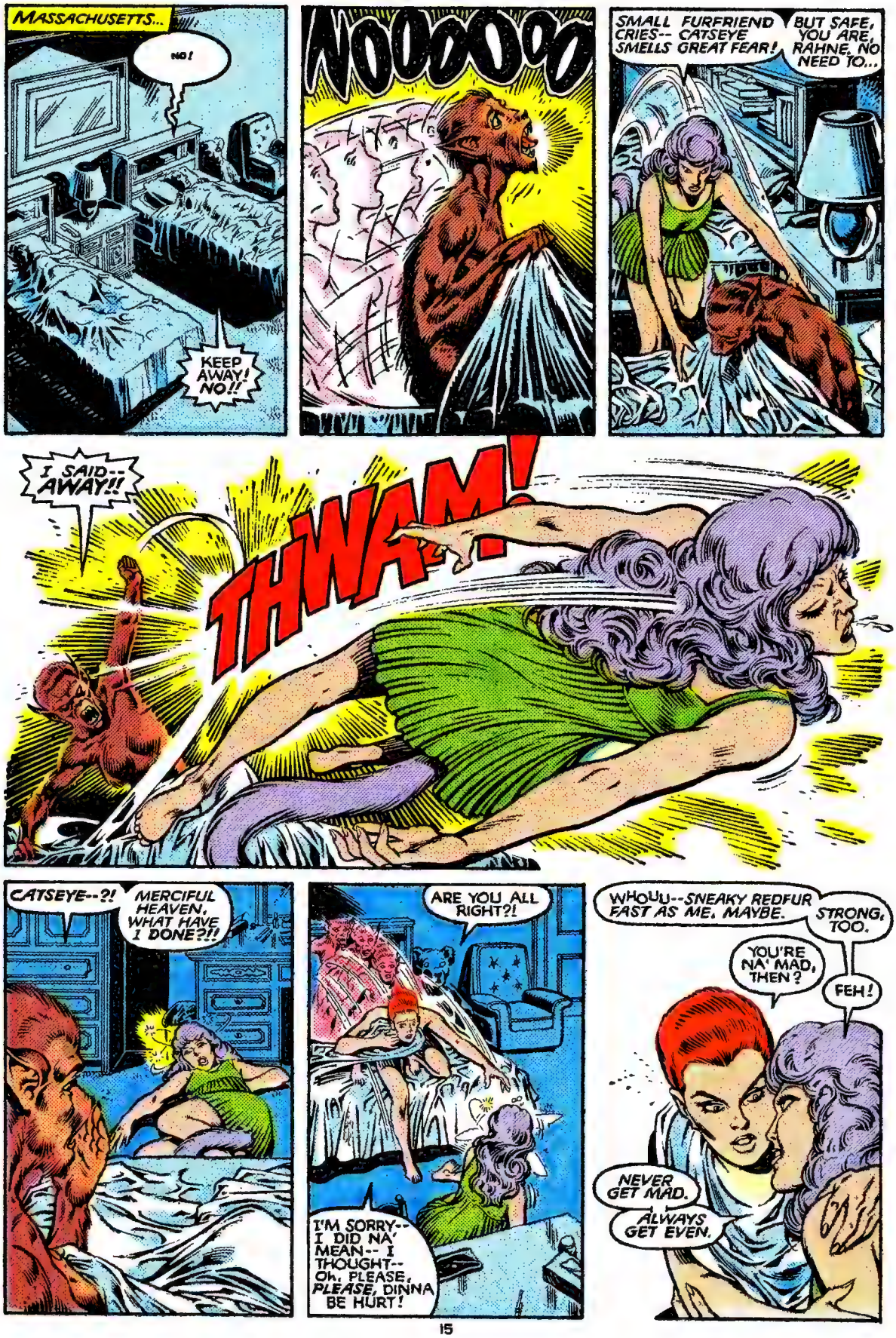

SNOW VALLEY, NESTLED DEEP IN THE BERKSHIRE MOUNTAINS...
RAHNE SINCLAIR IS THE LAST OF THEM.
THANK GOODNESS.
I AM NEAR THE LIMIT OF MY ENDURANCE.
WHAT INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCES THESE CHILDREN HAVE HAD, TO ENCOUNTER A TRULY POWERFUL BEING--THIS "ONE FROM BEYOND"--TO BE SLAIN BY HIM AND THEN RESSURECTED, TO BE SENT INTO BATTLE AGAINST EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES... *
*SEE NM #'S 36 & 37, AND SW II #'s 8 & 9 -- AnnN.
AND TO REMEMBER--EVERYTHING.
SMALL WONDER THEY'RE TRAUMATIZED.
I THINK I WOULD BE, TOO.
EVEN DEALING WITH THIS SECOND-HAND, THROUGH THEIR THOUGHTS, I REQUIRE A FULL DAY'S REST BETWEEN EACH SESSION.
ONE BENEFIT OF THEIR CONDITION--IT HAS SEVERELY WEAKENED THE PSIONIC DEFENSES XAVIER PLACED IN HIS STUDENTS' MINDS.
I CAN NOW NEUTRALIZE OR EVADE THEM WITH EASE.
HER THOUGHTS--SO CHAOTIC, SO DIRECT AND ELEMENTAL, SO... YOUNG.
BUT IN HER PAST--SUCH... LONELINESS...
...AND PAIN.
OH!
THIS--TOOK MORE EFFORT THAN I... ANTICIPATED. BUT MY WORK IS DONE--AND, I THINK, DONE WELL.
REST, LITTLE ONE. THE BAD TIMES ARE OVER.
WHEN YOU WAKE--YOU WILL BE FULLY ALIVE ONCE MORE, AND HAPPY.

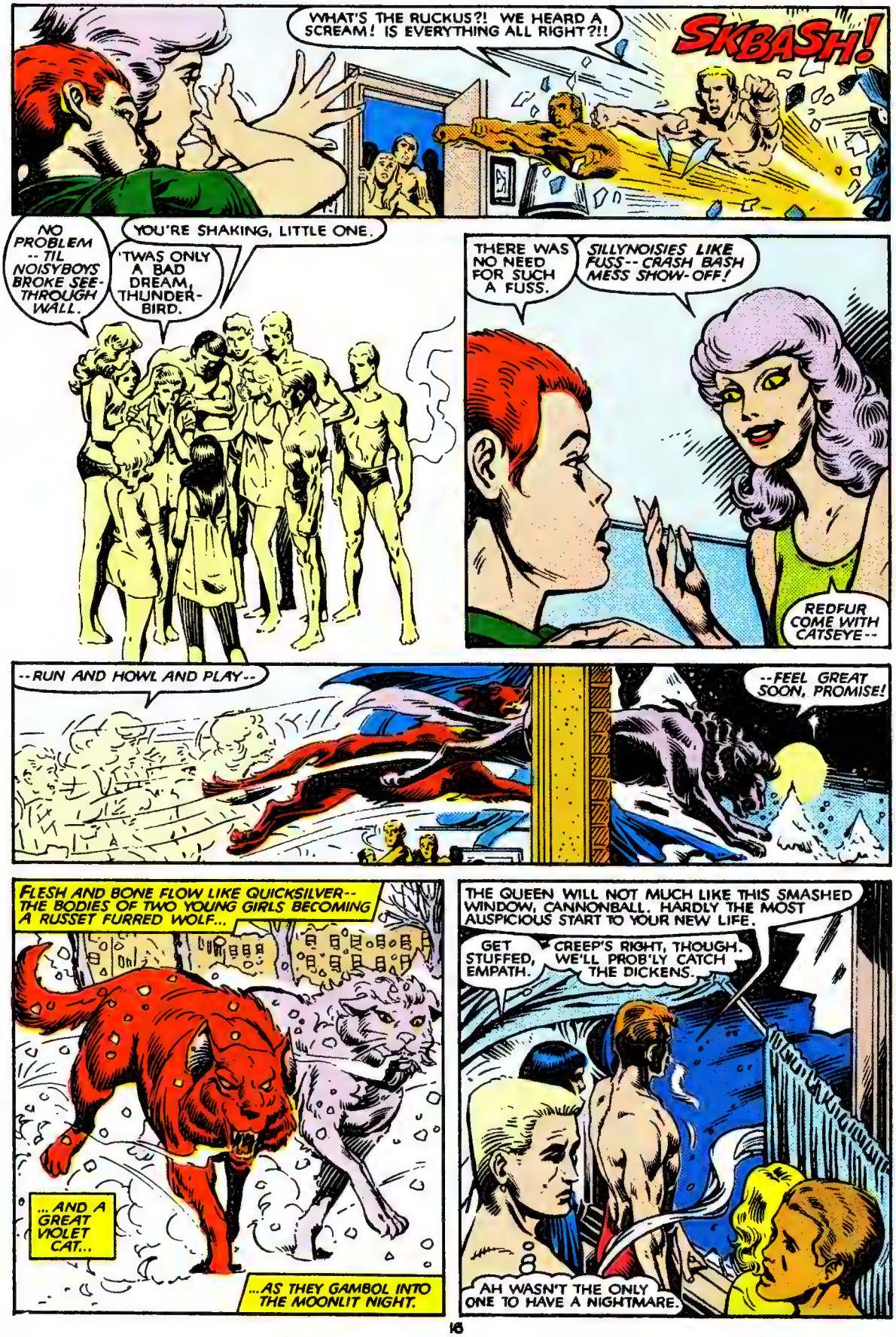

SUCH A MODEST, MORAL CHILD...
...YET WITHIN HER BURNS A FIERCE PASSION...
...THAT PLACES HER CLOSER IN SPIRIT TO THE HELLFIRE CLUB THAN SHE--OR XAVIER-- EVER DREAMED.
OPEN YOUR EYES, RAHNE...
...OR DO YOU PLAN TO SLEEP THE DAY AWAY?
Hmmnh?
MISS FROST!
EXCELLENT. BEFORE, MY APPEARANCE WOULD HAVE SCANDALIZED THE GIRL. NOW SHE ISN'T BOTHERED IN THE LEAST.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
WONDERFUL!
LIKE SOME AWFUL ROCK WAS CRUSHING ME AN' NOW IT'S GONE AN' I CAN BREATHE AGAIN AN' MOVE AN' SPEAK! Oh, THANK YOU, MISS, THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!
YOU'RE QUITE WELCOME.
YOUR FRIENDS ARE WAITING OUTSIDE.
ARE-- THEY BETTER, TOO?
WHY NOT SEE FOR YOURSELF.
REMEMBER, THOUGH, YOUNG LADY-- TOMORROW, YOU BEGIN CLASSES.
I EXPECT A GREAT DEAL FROM YOU ALL.
WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN, MISS-- NOT AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR US!
OF THAT, RAHNE, I AM CERTAIN.


SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK...
MAGNETO!
THIS IS MY STUDY, DANIELLE.
PLEASE DO ME THE COURTESY...
...OF KNOCKING BEFORE YOU ENTER.
THIS PLACE IS A PIGSTY!
AND REFRAIN FROM FURTHER COMMENTS.
I CAME TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
I'M GOING HOME, TO MY FOLKS' RANCH IN COLORADO.
I'M... SORRY... TO HEAR THAT.
I'LL BET.
BUT WHY SHOULD I STAY, SINCE YOU CLOSED THE SCHOOL? THERE'S NO MORE PLACE FOR ME HERE--
-- AND NO WAY WILL I JOIN THE OTHERS!
I DID WHAT I THOUGHT BEST.
YOU QUIT-- WHEN THE NEW MUTANTS NEEDED YOU MOST!
THAT ISN'T TRUE!
PROFESSOR XAVIER WOULD HAVE FOUND A WAY TO HELP THEM!
I PULLED THROUGH, MAGNETO-- I CAME OUT OF THAT AWFUL FUNK--
--THE OTHERS MIGHT HAVE, TOO, IF ONLY YOU'D TRIED A LITTLE HARDER!
THAT MAY WELL BE SO.
THAT IS MY WEAKNESS, MY SHAME...
... MY FAILURE.

Y'KNOW-- A WHILE BACK, WHEN THE MUTANTS WERE THE WHITE QUEEN'S PRISONERS AND ONLY ILLYANA AND I WERE LEFT TO FREE THEM...
...THE TWO OF US WERE TRANSPORTED BY ACCIDENT TO A FUTURE...
...WHEREIN WE SAW THE MUTANTS AND HELLIONS AS ONE TEAM. * SINCE WE RESCUED EVERYONE, WE FIGURED IT WAS SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HAPPEN BUT PROBABLY WOULDN'T. SO WE NEVER TOLD ANYBODY, NOT EVEN PROFESSOR X.
*NM #17--ANN.
BUT NOW-- THANKS TO YOU, OUR TEACHER-- IT'S COME TRUE.
FUNNY, huh, THE CURVES LIFE THROWS YOU.
SOMETIMES YOU HIT A HOME RUN.
MOSTLY, YOU'RE OUT.
FORGIVE ME, DANIELLE.
MY WEAKNESS.
MY SHAME.
SKASSH!
MY-- FAILURE!
YOU REALLY GOIN', DANI?
Uh-huh.
BRIGHT-WIND'S ALL LOADED.
AND PROBABLY CHOMPING AT THE BIT.
TAKE CARE, KIDDO.
YOU, TOO, STEVIE.
AND LOOK AFTER MAGNETO, OKAY? HE'S TAKING THIS HARD.
HE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE.

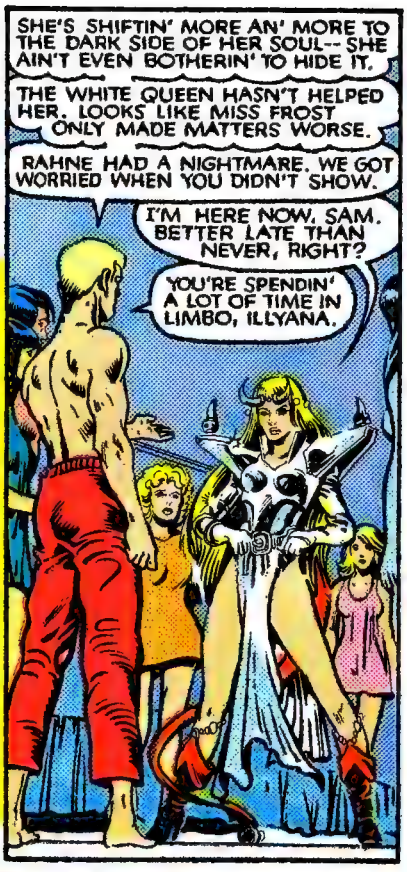
WHAT ABOUT THE NEW MUTANTS, YOU JUST GOING TO LEAVE 'EM?
YUP.
MAYBE THIS MAKES ME AS MUCH A COWARD-- A FAILURE-- AS MAGNETO.
BUT I DON'T CARE.
IF I FIGHT THE WHITE QUEEN, I'M CERTAIN-- I'M SO SCARED-- I'LL LOSE. THEN I'LL BE HER PAWN, LIKE I WAS THE BEYONDER'S. I COULDN'T BEAR THAT, STEVIE, I'D RATHER DIE.
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE MAGNETO'S RIGHT AND THE GANG'S BETTER OFF WITH THE QUEEN.
I'VE LEFT MESSAGES EVERYWHERE FOR THE X-MEN.
THEY'RE THE SENIOR TEAM-- THEY'RE OLDER, LOTS MORE EXPERIENCED-- THEY'LL KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THINGS.
ME, I HAVE TO GO HOME. BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
SELFRIEND STEVIE HUNTER!
CHIEFRIENDANIMIRAGE!!
HIYA, WARLOCK.
SELF SCANNED ENTIRE ESTATE BUT COULD NOT LOCATE...
...FRIENDS TOM OR SHARON.
THEY'VE BEEN GONE AWHILE. I HOPE IT'S NOTHING BAD.
GIVE 'EM A GOOD-BYE KISS FOR ME, OKAY, 'LOCK?
BE WELL, DANI. SAFE JOURNEY.
QUERY: WILL SELF SEE SELFRIENDANI AGAIN?
ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE, PAL.
I FEEL SO ROTTEN.
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE WHO-- OR WHAT-- I AM! CHEYENNE, MUTANT, VALKYRIE-- A NORMAL, ORDINARY GIRL?! WHICH IS THE REAL ME, WHERE DOES DANIELLE MOONSTAR TRULY BELONG?!
I WON'T LEARN THE ANSWERS HERE.
HOME'S THE ONLY PLACE I'VE GOT LEFT TO GO.


MASSACHUSETTS...
NO!
KEEP AWAY! NO!!
NOOOOO
SMALL FURFRIEND CRIES-- CATSEYE SMELLS GREAT FEAR!
BUT SAFE, YOU ARE, RAHNE, NO NEED TO...
I SAID-- AWAY!!
THWAM!
CATSEYE--?!
MERCIFUL HEAVEN, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I'M SORRY-- I DID NA' MEAN-- I THOUGHT-- Oh, PLEASE, PLEASE, DINNA BE HURT!
WHOUU--SNEAKY REDFUR FAST AS ME, MAYBE.
STRONG, TOO.
YOU'RE NA' MAD, THEN?
FEH!
NEVER GET MAD.
ALWAYS GET EVEN.

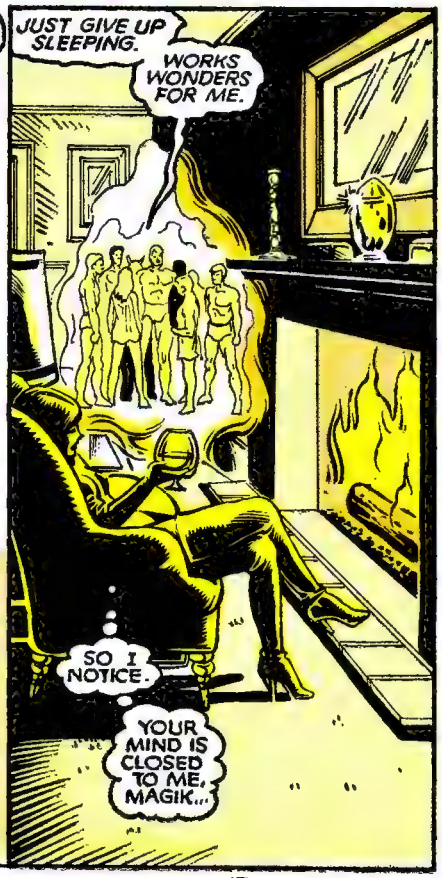

WHAT'S THE RUCKUS?! WE HEARD A SCREAM! IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?!!
SKBASH!
NO PROBLEM -- 'TIL NOISYBOYS BROKE SEE-THROUGH WALL.
YOU'RE SHAKING, LITTLE ONE.
'TWAS ONLY A BAD DREAM, THUNDER-BIRD.
THERE WAS NO NEED FOR SUCH A FUSS.
SILLYNOISIES LIKE FUSS-- CRASH BASH MESS SHOW-OFF!
REDFUR COME WITH CATSEYE--
--RUN AND HOWL AND PLAY--
--FEEL GREAT SOON, PROMISE!
FLESH AND BONE FLOW LIKE QUICKSILVER-- THE BODIES OF TWO YOUNG GIRLS BECOMING A RUSSET FURRED WOLF...
... AND A GREAT VIOLET CAT...
...AS THEY GAMBOL INTO THE MOONLIT NIGHT.
THE QUEEN WILL NOT MUCH LIKE THIS SMASHED WINDOW, CANNONBALL. HARDLY THE MOST AUSPICIOUS START TO YOUR NEW LIFE.
GET STUFFED, EMPATH.
CREEP'S RIGHT, THOUGH. WE'LL PROB'LY CATCH THE DICKENS.
AH WASN'T THE ONLY ONE TO HAVE A NIGHTMARE.

AH WONDER IF WE WERE THE ONLY TWO?
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT-- WHAT'S IT MEAN?! SHOOT, AH WISH AH COULD REMEMBER SOME DETAILS. THE ONLY THING AH'M SURE OF IS THAT AH'VE NEVER FELT MORE SCARED.
THUNDERBIRD, SHOULDN'T ONE OF US FOLLOW THOSE GIRLS-- KEEP AN EYE-- HEY?! ILLYANA?!?

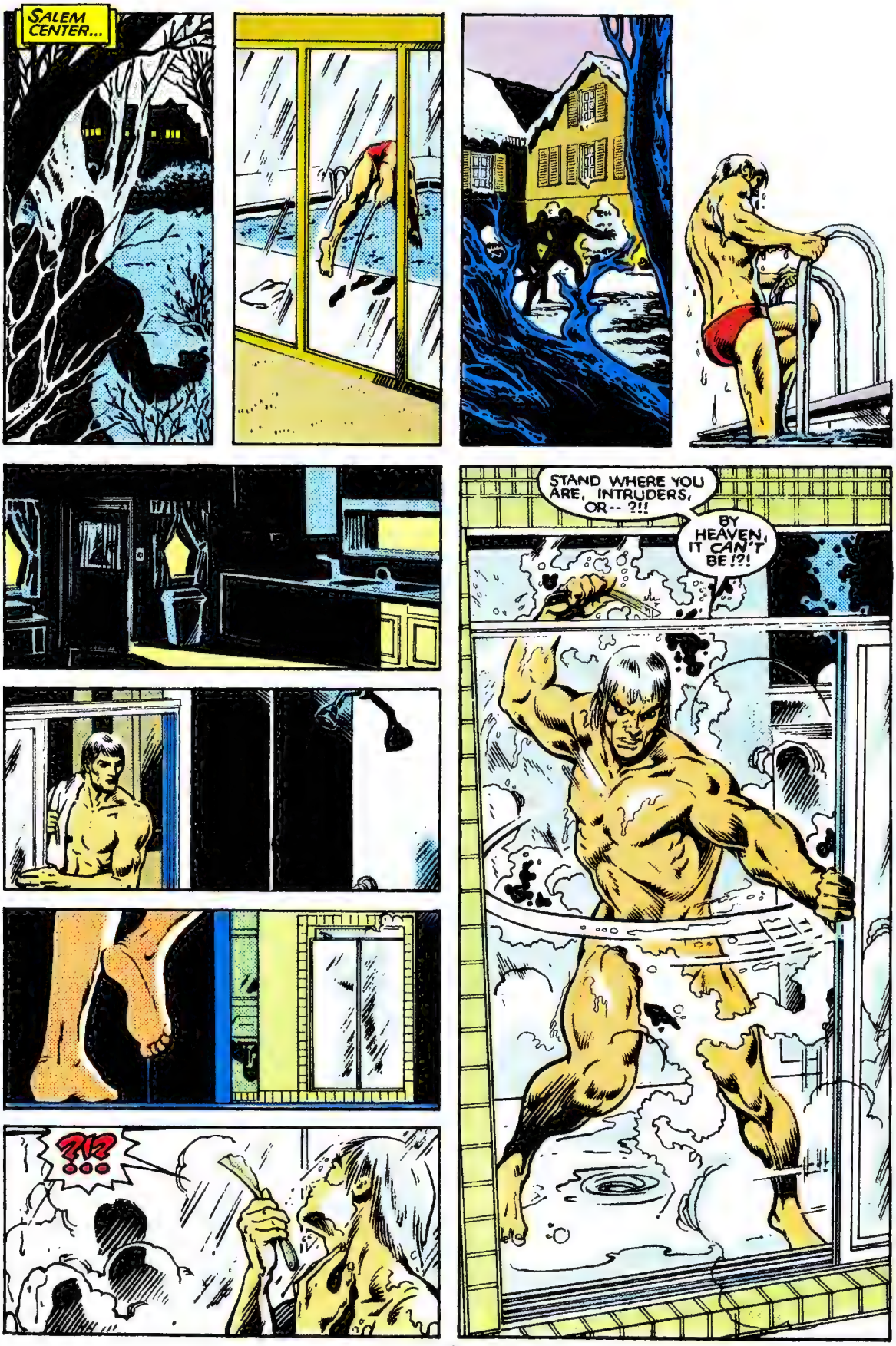
SHE ISN'T HERE!
I'LL CHECK HER ROOM.
WHO'S HER ROOMMATE?
SHE DOESN'T HAVE ONE.
SOMEONE MENTION MY NAME?
GASP!

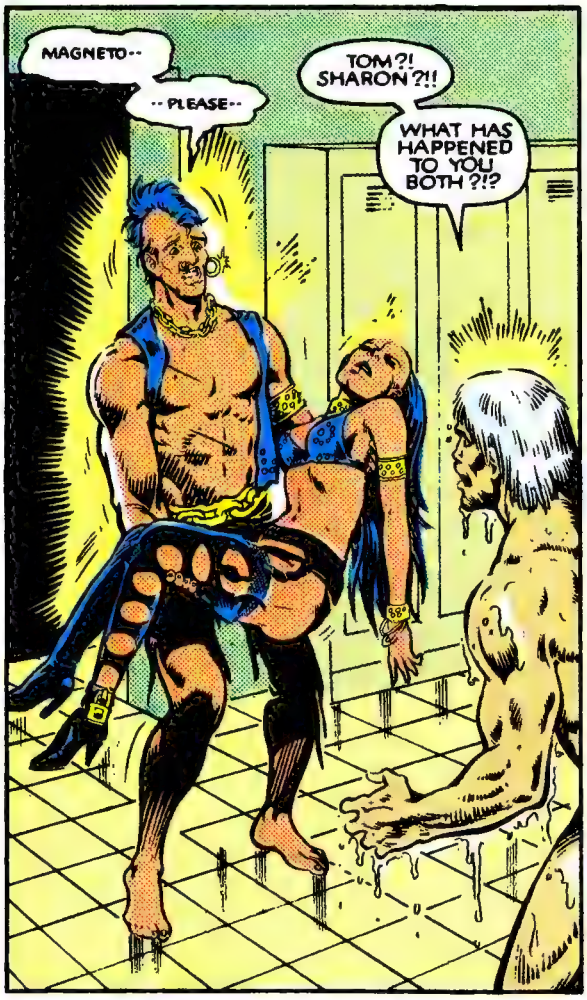

SHE'S SHIFTIN' MORE AN' MORE TO THE DARK SIDE OF HER SOUL-- SHE AIN'T EVEN BOTHERIN' TO HIDE IT.
THE WHITE QUEEN HASN'T HELPED HER. LOOKS LIKE MISS FROST ONLY MADE MATTERS WORSE.
RAHNE HAD A NIGHTMARE. WE GOT WORRIED WHEN YOU DIDN'T SHOW.
I'M HERE NOW, SAM. BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, RIGHT?
YOU'RE SPENDIN' A LOT OF TIME IN LIMBO, ILLYANA.

I LIKE IT THERE. MY KIND OF PLACE. MY KIND OF CRITTERS.
HOW 'BOUT YOU, ILLYANA-- ANY BAD DREAMS?
NOPE.
WE SHOULD ALL BE SO LUCKY.
SOLUTION'S CHILD'S PLAY, DOUG.

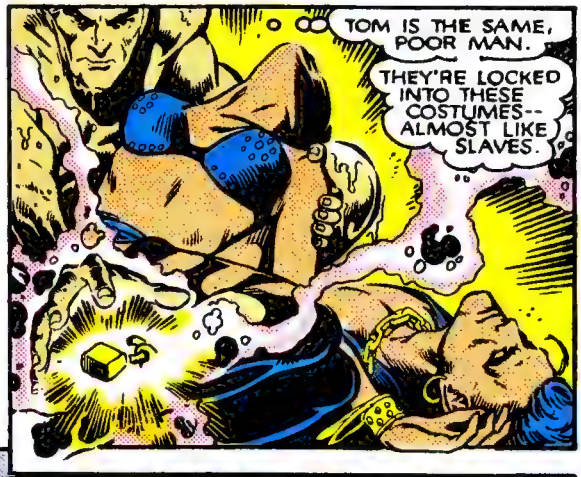

JUST GIVE UP SLEEPING.
WORKS WONDERS FOR ME.
SO I NOTICE.
YOUR MIND IS CLOSED TO ME, MAGIK...

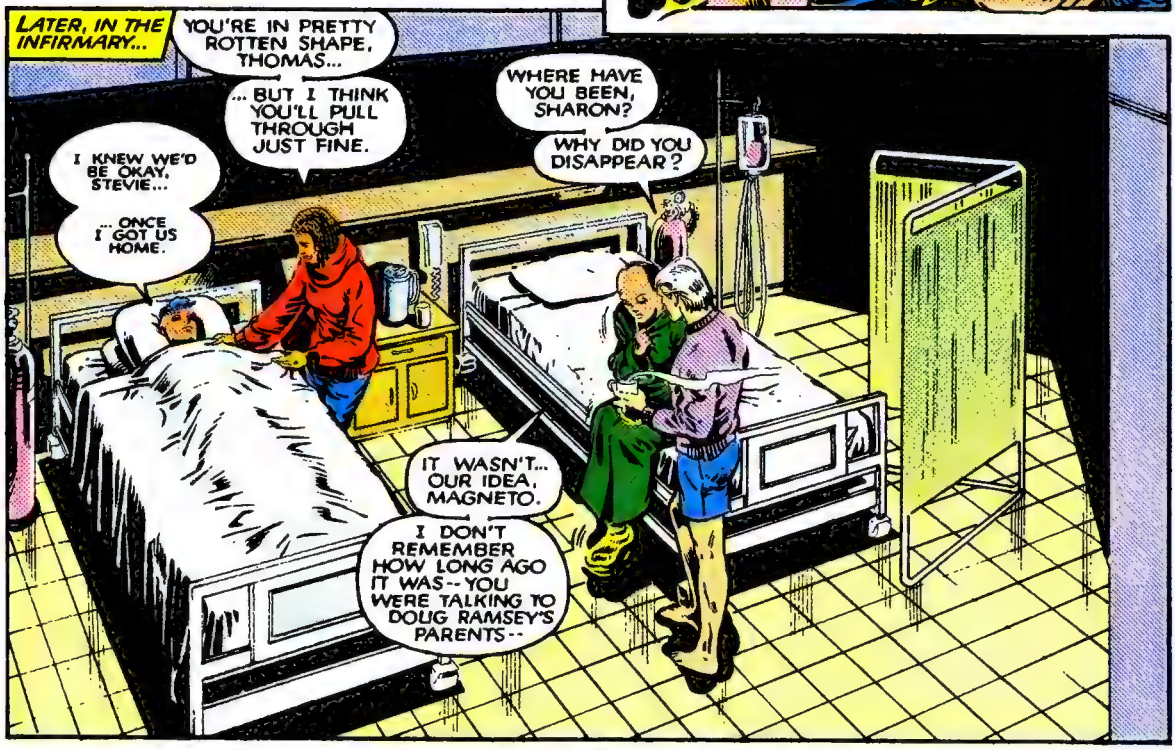
... BUT IT IS OBVIOUS FROM THE OTHERS' THOUGHTS THAT SOMETHING IS SERIOUSLY AMISS.
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT IS THE PRECISE NATURE OF THIS PROBLEM...
... AND HOW DO I DEAL WITH IT?

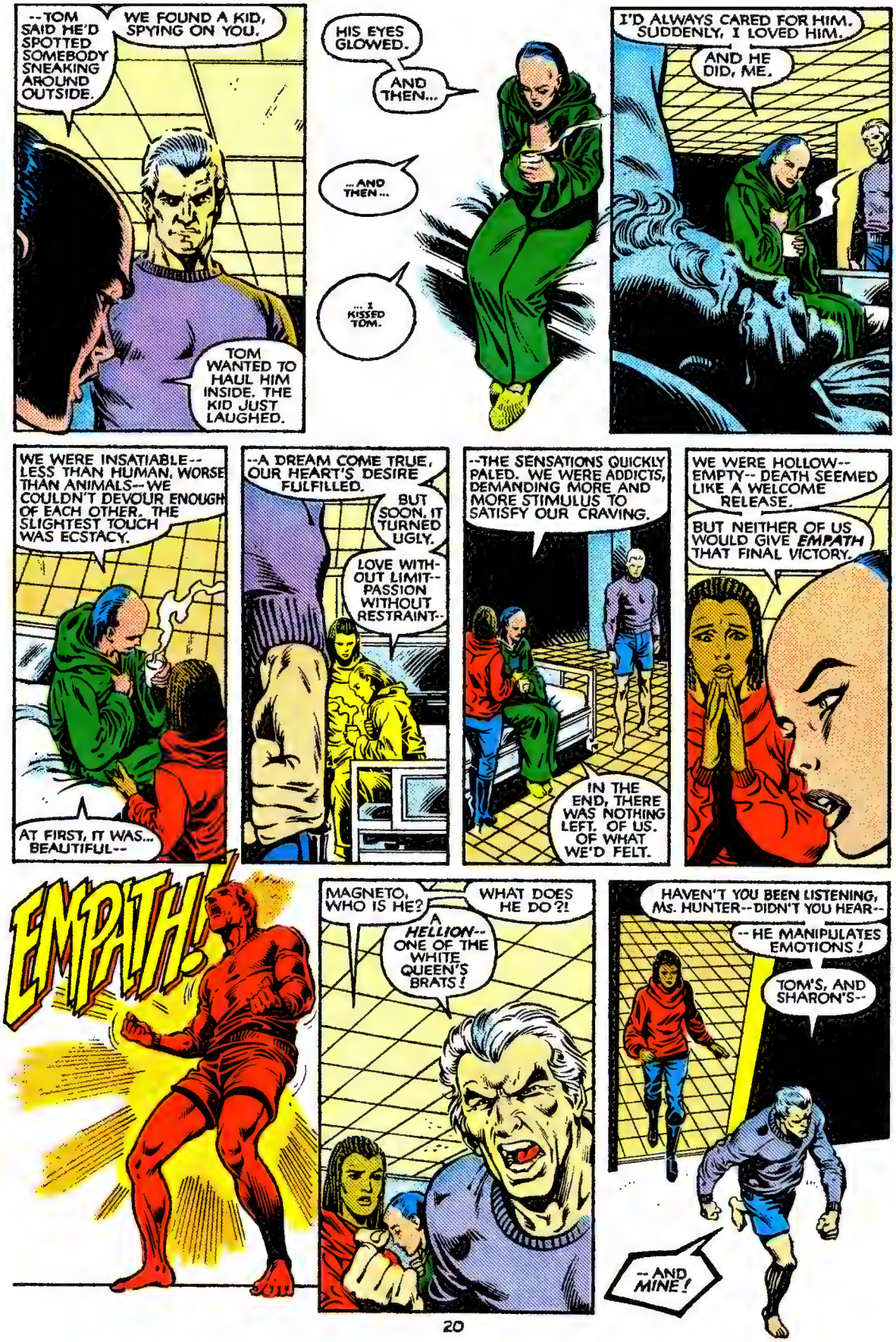

SALEM CENTER...
STAND WHERE YOU ARE, INTRUDERS, OR-- ?!!
BY HEAVEN, IT CAN'T BE!?!
?!?


MAGNETO--
--PLEASE--
TOM?! SHARON?!!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU BOTH?!?

--HELP...
...US
HER SKIN--LIKE ICE!


TOM IS THE SAME, POOR MAN.
THEY'RE LOCKED INTO THESE COSTUMES--ALMOST LIKE SLAVES.


LATER, IN THE INFIRMARY...
YOU'RE IN PRETTY ROTTEN SHAPE, THOMAS...
...BUT I THINK YOU'LL PULL THROUGH JUST FINE.
I KNEW WE'D BE OKAY, STEVIE...
...ONCE I GOT US HOME.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, SHARON?
WHY DID YOU DISAPPEAR?
IT WASN'T... OUR IDEA, MAGNETO.
I DON'T REMEMBER HOW LONG AGO IT WAS--YOU WERE TALKING TO DOUG RAMSEY'S PARENTS--


--TOM SAID HE'D SPOTTED SOMEBODY SNEAKING AROUND OUTSIDE.
WE FOUND A KID, SPYING ON YOU.
TOM WANTED TO HAUL HIM INSIDE. THE KID JUST LAUGHED.
HIS EYES GLOWED.
AND THEN...
...AND THEN...
...I KISSED TOM.
I'D ALWAYS CARED FOR HIM. SUDDENLY, I LOVED HIM.
AND HE DID, ME.
WE WERE INSATIABLE--LESS THAN HUMAN, WORSE THAN ANIMALS--WE COULDN'T DEVOUR ENOUGH OF EACH OTHER. THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH WAS ECSTACY.
AT FIRST, IT WAS... BEAUTIFUL--
--A DREAM COME TRUE, OUR HEART'S DESIRE FULFILLED.
BUT SOON, IT TURNED UGLY.
LOVE WITHOUT LIMIT--PASSION WITHOUT RESTRAINT--
--THE SENSATIONS QUICKLY PALED. WE WERE ADDICTS, DEMANDING MORE AND MORE STIMULUS TO SATISFY OUR CRAVING.
IN THE END, THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT. OF US. OF WHAT WE'D FELT.
WE WERE HOLLOW--EMPTY--DEATH SEEMED LIKE A WELCOME RELEASE.
BUT NEITHER OF US WOULD GIVE EMPATH THAT FINAL VICTORY.
EMPATH!
MAGNETO, WHO IS HE?
WHAT DOES HE DO?!
A HELLION--ONE OF THE WHITE QUEEN'S BRATS!
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LISTENING, Ms. HUNTER--DIDN'T YOU HEAR--
--HE MANIPULATES EMOTIONS!
TOM'S, AND SHARON'S--
--AND MINE!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

IT'S 1961!

MARVEL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Way back in August of 1961, when popsicles were six cents, *Tossin' and Turnin'* by Bobby Lewis was the number one hit single, and nobody had ever heard of Viet Nam, *Fantastic Four #1* appeared on the newsstands. That historic issue marked the beginning of the Marvel Universe, and the launching of the Marvel Comics Group. We were one of the smallest comics companies then, but we took off like a starship and quickly grew into one of the biggies. Now, as we approach our twenty-fifth birthday, we're the largest comics publisher in the Western World—and we did it the old-fashioned way. We earned it.

All this year we'll be celebrating our anniversary with special issues and events—watch the checklist for details—but the big event is coming up in the summer. And what is that?

Drum roll, please . . .

IN HONOR OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE WE ARE CREATING . . . A NEW UNIVERSE!

It will be the comics event of the century. Yes, the century. Watch for it.

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THING #34**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #229**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #38**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #13**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #7**
- ☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #8**—Hyperion vs . . . Hyperion?!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #316**—Guest starring Hawkeye!
- ☐ **POWER PACK #21**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #19**—Baron Karza is back!
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #76**—By the Eye of Vishanti, 'tis a *new* creative team! Check it out!
- ☐ **VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #7**—Featuring the Sub-Mariner!
- ☐ **FIRESTAR (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #275**—Special *giant-size issue*, featuring a rare reprint of Spidey's origin from *Amazing Fantasy #15!*
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #5**—Re-telling the incredible events in issues #66–84!
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #5**—Meet everyone from Gargoyle to Howard the Duck!
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #33**—Guest starring Wolverine!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #318**—Introducing the Hulk Busters!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #266**—A special epilogue to *Secret Wars II*, featuring the Silver Surfer!
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #181**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #186**
- ☐ **X-MEN #204**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #46**
- ☐ **ETERNALS (Limited Series) #7**
- ☐ **PUNISHER (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #5**—Including the origins of Loki and the Wizard (bad guys), and Angel and the Iceman (good guys)!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #289**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #205**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #113**
- ☐ **THOR #366**—Beware the wrath of the Thunder Frog!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #3**—There's a big change in store for the Beast!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #15**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP INDEX #3**—Meet the amazing Spider-Friends from issues #24–50!
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO #19**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #37**—A special look at the 25th Anniversary of Marvel Comics!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #122**

EPIC COMICS

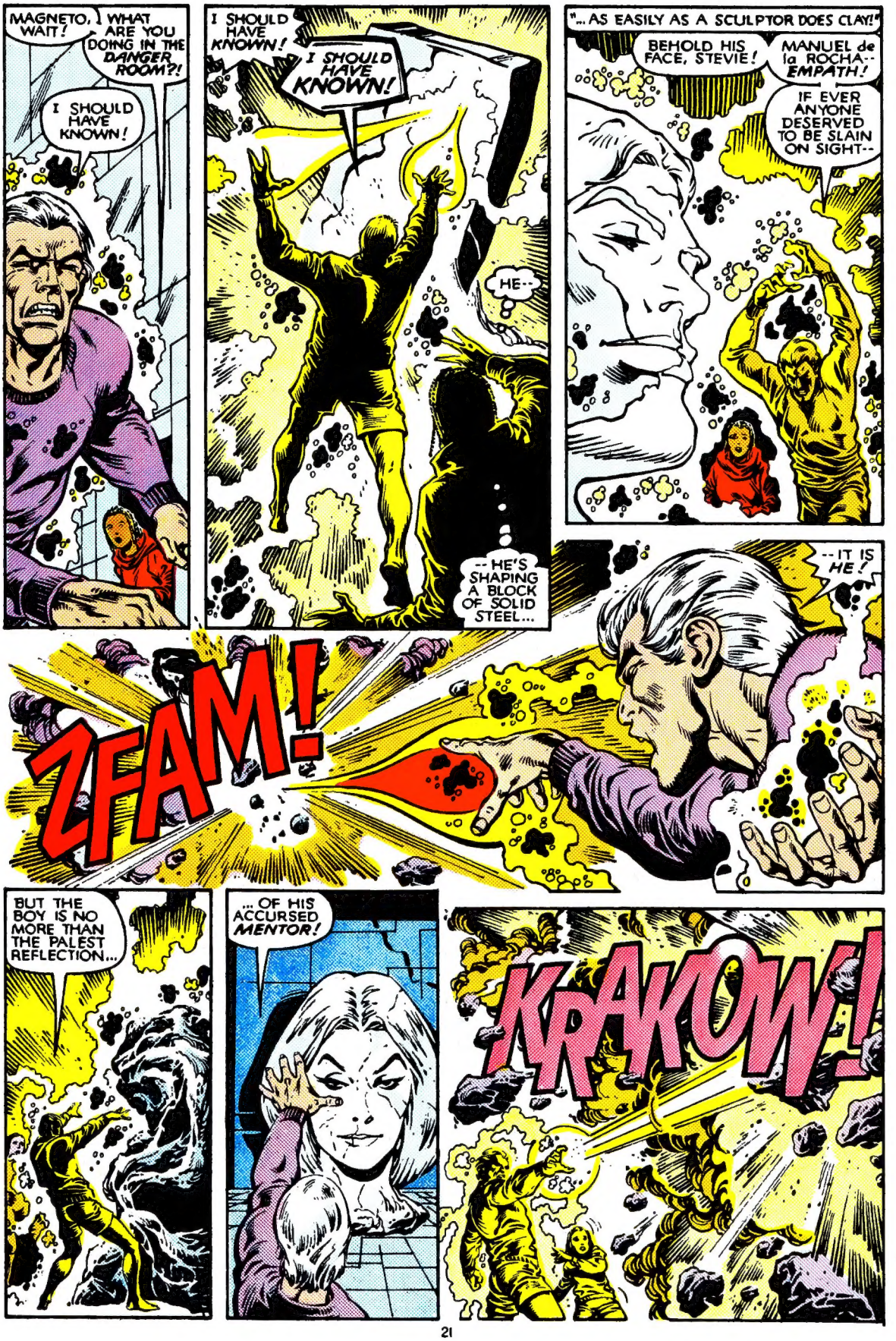
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #14**
- ☐ **SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #8**—The Queen is dead. and that's not all!
- ☐ **BOZZ CHRONICLES #2**
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #23**
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #9**—The quest begins!
- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #12**—Welcome STROMAN and EMBERLIN, the Legion's new art team!
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS II (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **STARSTRUCK #6**

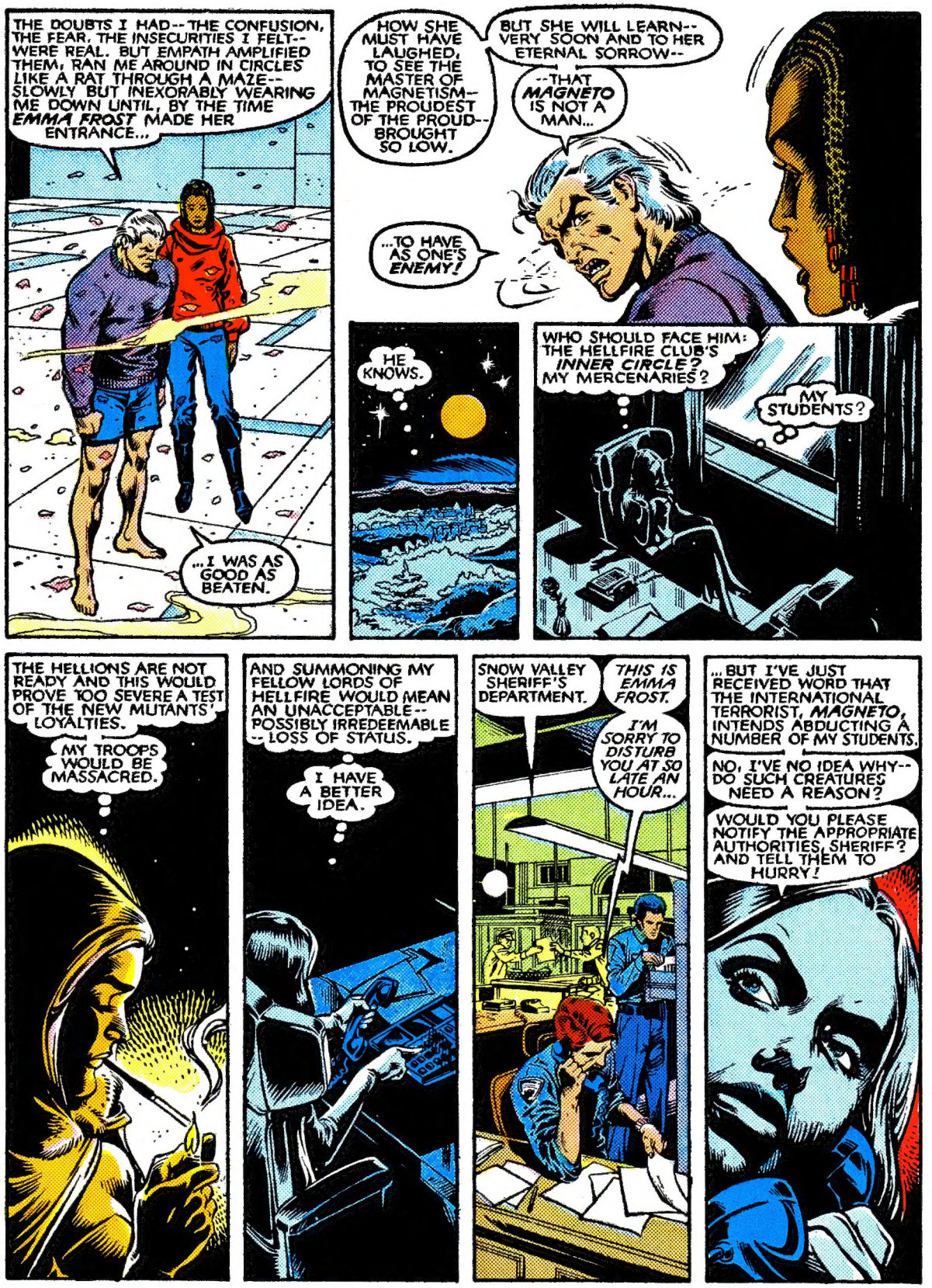
STAR COMICS

- ☐ **THUNDERCATS #3**—Beware Mumm-Ra!
- ☐ **MISTY (Limited Series) #3**—Special Christmas issue!
- ☐ **HEATHCLIFF #7**—Hey, look at that super-elastic kitty-cat!
- ☐ **TOP DOG #7**—Guest starring Royal Roy!
- ☐ **FRAGGLE ROCK #7**—Who wants to be Junior Gorg's friend?
- ☐ **DROIDS #1**—The stars of the "Star Wars" movies and Saturday morning tv are now starring in their own Star Comic! That's right, it's R2D2 and C3PO! Yay!

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ **GN #22: MARADA THE SHE-WOLF**—Direct from the pages of EPIC ILLUSTRATED and in color for the first time! Find out why people have been talking about this tale of enchantment and swordplay in the days of the Roman Empire! Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT, painted by JOHN BOLTON.


MAGNETO, WAIT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE DANGER ROOM?!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
HE--
-- HE'S SHAPING A BLOCK OF SOLID STEEL...
"...AS EASILY AS A SCULPTOR DOES CLAY!"
BEHOLD HIS FACE, STEVIE!
MANUEL de la ROCHA-- EMPATH!
IF EVER ANYONE DESERVED TO BE SLAIN ON SIGHT--
ZFAM!
--IT IS HE!
BUT THE BOY IS NO MORE THAN THE PALEST REFLECTION...
... OF HIS ACCURSED MENTOR!
KRAKOW!


THE DOUBTS I HAD--THE CONFUSION, THE FEAR, THE INSECURITIES I FELT--WERE REAL. BUT EMPATH AMPLIFIED THEM, RAN ME AROUND IN CIRCLES LIKE A RAT THROUGH A MAZE--SLOWLY BUT INEXORABLY WEARING ME DOWN UNTIL, BY THE TIME *EMMA FROST* MADE HER ENTRANCE...
...I WAS AS GOOD AS BEATEN.
HOW SHE MUST HAVE LAUGHED, TO SEE THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM--THE PROUDEST OF THE PROUD--BROUGHT SO LOW.
BUT SHE WILL LEARN--VERY SOON AND TO HER ETERNAL SORROW--
--THAT *MAGNETO* IS NOT A MAN...
...TO HAVE AS ONE'S *ENEMY!*
HE KNOWS.
WHO SHOULD FACE HIM: THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S *INNER CIRCLE?* MY MERCENARIES?
MY STUDENTS?
THE HELLIONS ARE NOT READY AND THIS WOULD PROVE TOO SEVERE A TEST OF THE NEW MUTANTS' LOYALTIES.
MY TROOPS WOULD BE MASSACRED.
AND SUMMONING MY FELLOW LORDS OF HELLFIRE WOULD MEAN AN UNACCEPTABLE--POSSIBLY IRREDEEMABLE--LOSS OF STATUS.
I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.
SNOW VALLEY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.
THIS IS EMMA FROST. I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOU AT SO LATE AN HOUR...
...BUT I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST, *MAGNETO*, INTENDS ABDUCTING A NUMBER OF MY STUDENTS.
NO, I'VE NO IDEA WHY--DO SUCH CREATURES NEED A REASON?
WOULD YOU PLEASE NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES, SHERIFF? AND TELL THEM TO HURRY!

NEXT: AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

MINUTEMEN
Quick
STOP
RST